

As you are aware House Bill 4134 prevents the Board of Medicine or the Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery from requiring an applicant to maintain certification (MOC) in any of the specialty boards. The State of Georgia just passed such legislation.

Bill 4134 merely protects us from allowing the State Medical Boards to abdicate their right to license physicians to a third party in this case a monopolistic private company. If the ABMS is content to sit back and continue to merely be a "certifying" organization then no harm. If ABMS should try to over reach then Bill 4134 protects Michigan physicians from being under the heel of a Chicago based company.

Physician burn out is now estimated to be as high 54%. Physicians are leaving the profession early (we lost two in Livingston County) due to over regulation. What was once a every 10 year event, MOC has become a perpetual hamster wheel of burdensome tasks. MOC takes valuable time away from our patients, causes undue stress on physicians, and costs a lot of money. Two peer reviewed studies in the December 2014 Journal of American Medical Association failed to show participation in MOC improves outcomes.

The cost in dollars and time is staggering. For a ten year cycle the average internist will spend \$23,607 on MOC. The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) collects \$5.7 billion, and physicians spend 32 million hours on MOC related projects. Without any proof that it improves patient outcomes!

House Bill 4135 would allow those who want off the hamster wheel to exit without fear of economic ruin. Currently insurance companies and employers require certification. Those who fail to remain certified are taken off insurance panels, and kicked out of hospital systems (i.e. fired).

Although one could view this as an internal struggle amongst physicians, this is hardly the case. Many of the same people who have devised this money making scheme go on to advise the federal government (CMS, ACA) and insurance companies via the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

HB 4135 will allow us to get off the hamster wheel, tailor our continuing education for our patient population, not time consuming programs devised by an out of town company. It will also restore certification to it's proper status, voluntary.

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